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COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS
Seventeenth session
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda

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14. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventeenth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

The proceedings of the Commission on Transnational Corporations are governed, mutatis mutandis, by the rules of the procedure of the Economic and Social Council. Rule 18 thereof provides that the Bureau shall consist of five officers. The Commission may wish to follow the practice adopted at its previous sessions and elect a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda and documentation for the seventeenth session of the Commission were approved by the Commission at its sixteenth session and by the Economic and Social Council in decision 1990/273.

3. Recent developments related to transnational corporations and international economic relations

At its sixteenth session, the Commission requested the Secretariat to prepare another report on recent developments related to transnational corporations and international economic relations for its seventeenth session, taking into account the comments made by delegations (E/C.10/1990/19, para. 18).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on recent developments related to transnational corporations and international economic relations: the triad in foreign direct investment (E/C.10/1991/2)

4. Transnational corporations and issues relating to the environment, including the contribution of the Commission and the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations to the work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

At its second regular session of 1990, the Council requested the Executive Director of the Centre to prepare a comprehensive and analytical study for submission to the Commission at its seventeenth session, with a view to helping the Commission make a significant and action-oriented contribution to the preparatory work of the Conference (Council resolution 1990/71).

The Council also requested the Executive Director of the Centre, in preparing the study, to focus on the role of transnational corporations and other commercial entities of a similar nature in promoting access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries, and on measures that could further encourage and mobilize transnational corporations and other commercial entities of a similar nature to protect and enhance the environment in relation to development.

The Council requested the Executive Director of the Centre to continue to examine the subject of transnational corporations and the environment, including concrete ways and means of strengthening the participation of transnational corporations and other commercial entities of a similar nature in the efforts to increase environmental protection and provide business enterprises and governmental agencies in developing countries with access to information on cleaner technologies, to examine the feasibility of financial mechanisms that would encourage transnational corporations and other enterprises of a similar nature to contribute to the protection and enhancement of the environment of developing countries, and to report to the Commission at its seventeenth session, with a view to assisting the Commission in its contribution to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference (Council resolution 1990/71).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the contribution of the Commission and the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations to the work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (E/C.10/1991/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on transnational corporations and issues relating to the environment (E/C.10/1991/3/Add.1)

5. Role of transnational corporations in services, including transnational banks

(a) Role of transnational banks

At its second regular session of 1990, the Council requested the Secretary-General, taking into account the other work being carried out by the United Nations, to prepare for submission to the Commission at its seventeenth session an updated report on the role of transnational banks related to the external indebtedness of developing countries, giving particular attention to the

obstacles and problems that transnational banks have faced with regard to debt reduction.

The Council also requested the Secretary-General to prepare an analytical report on debt-equity swaps, taking into account the work already carried out by the Centre on the effect that swaps could have on foreign direct investment and the overall development of host countries, as well as the experiences of countries that have adopted such schemes (Council resolution 1990/71).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on transnational banks and external indebtedness (E/C.10/1991/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on transnational banks and debt-equity conversions (E/C.10/1991/5)

(b) Role of transnational corporations in other services

At its second regular session of 1990, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare further studies on the role of transnational corporations in other services, including financial services, and on strengthening the negotiating capacity of developing countries in their dealings with transnational corporations, and to report on ongoing and future research of the Centre to the Commission at its seventeenth session (Council resolution 1990/71).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of transnational corporations in services other than banking: the impact of transnational service corporations on developing countries (E/C.10/1991/6)

6. Ongoing and future research

At its second regular session of 1990, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report on ongoing and future research of the Centre to the Commission at its seventeenth session (Council resolution 1990/71).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on research results and current and future programmes: the determinants of foreign direct investment and policy implications (E/C.10/1991/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and the activities of the joint units established with the regional commissions (E/C.10/1991/15)

7. Work related to the code of conduct on transnational corporations and other international arrangements and agreements

(a) Code of conduct on transnational corporations

At its sixteenth session, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the progress made in the work on the code of conduct on transnational corporations to the Commission at its seventeenth session (E/C.10/1990/19, para. 27).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the work on the code of conduct on transnational corporations (E/C.10/1991/8)

(b) Other international, regional and bilateral arrangements and agreements related to transnational corporations

At its sixteenth session, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to update the report on international arrangements and agreements related to transnational corporations for its seventeenth session (E/C.10/1990/19, para. 28).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on other international, regional and bilateral arrangements and agreements related to transnational corporations (E/C.10/1991/9)

8. Transnational corporations in South Africa

At its second regular session of 1990, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare an updated study on the responsibilities of home countries with respect to the transnational corporations operating in South Africa in violation of the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations (Council resolution 1990/70).

The Council also requested the Secretary-General to continue the work of collecting and disseminating information on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa, including the list of transnational corporations still operating there (Council resolution 1990/70).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on transnational corporations operating in South Africa (E/C.10/1991/10)

List of transnational corporations with interests in South Africa (E/C.10/1991/11)

9. International standards of accounting and reporting

At its resumed second regular session of 1982, the Council decided to establish an Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (Council resolution 1982/67). At its sixteenth session, the Commission approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the ninth session of the Group (Commission decision 1990/1).

Documentation

Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its ninth session (E/C.10/1991/12)

10. Strengthening the negotiating capacity of developing countries in their dealings with transnational corporations

At its sixteenth session, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its seventeenth session a report on another aspect of the experience gained in technical co-operation activities (E/1990/26, para. 114).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on experience gained in technical co-operation activities: experience gained in training and human resources development (E/C.10/1991/13)

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and the activities of the joint units established with the regional commissions (E/C.10/1991/15)

11. Comprehensive information system

At its sixteenth session, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its seventeenth session on the experience gained in the development of the comprehensive information system, taking into account the views expressed by delegations at the sixteenth session (E/1990/26, para. 120).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive information system: legal and information services (E/C.10/1991/14)

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and the activities of the joint units established with the regional commissions (E/C.10/1991/15)

12. Activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

At its sixteenth session, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission at its seventeenth session on the activities of the Centre, including the activities of the joint units established with the regional commissions, and to report on any country-specific studies that might be undertaken at the request of individual countries (E/1990/26, para. 144).

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/238, the Commission will also have before it relevant excerpts from the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989 (A/45/218 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1) and of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its thirtieth session (A/45/16).

At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and reaffirmed that the plan was the principal policy directive of the United Nations and should serve as a framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budgets (resolution 45/253).

The Commission will have before it for discussion a note by the Secretariat on the proposed work programme for the biennium 1992-1993 of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, including the joint units established with the regional commissions, drawn up in accordance with the strategy described in the programme on transnational corporations of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

The Secretariat will also inform the Commission about possible revisions to the medium-term plan covering the biennium 1994-1995.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and the activities of the joint units established with the regional commissions (E/C.10/1991/15)

Note by the Secretariat on the proposed work programme for the biennium 1992-1993 of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, including the joint units established with the regional commissions (E/C.10/1991/CRP.1)

13. Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Commission

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII), the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its eighteenth session, together with a list of the documents to be submitted for each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission, their urgency and their relevance in the light of the current situation.

In resolution 1979/41, the Council decided that the provisional agenda for its subsidiary bodies, together with the list of requested documentation, should be submitted to the Council for its review, in order, inter alia, to establish greater consistency between the requests for documentation and the medium-term plan and the programme budget.

By resolution 1990/69 on further measures for the implementation of Council resolution 1989/114 on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, the Council urged its subsidiary bodies to implement fully resolution 1979/41 in submitting to the Council for consideration their provisional agenda, together with the list of requested documentation, with a view to ensuring greater consistency in requests for documentation and improving reporting procedures. In this connection, it will be recalled that the Council urged all its subsidiary bodies to exercise the utmost restraint in making requests of the Secretary-General for new reports and studies and to implement fully the decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly with respect to the control and limitation of documentation (Council resolutions 1981/83 and 1982/50).

By decision 1983/163, the Council decided to request the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions are adopted, any request for documentation that exceeds the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources and to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation is likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that deal with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations

14. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventeenth session

The Commission will adopt its report to the Economic and Social Council.

Attention is drawn to Council resolution 1990/69 on further measures for the implementation of Council resolutions 1989/114 and 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, in which the Council requested its subsidiary bodies to highlight policy recommendations and decisions resulting from their deliberations for consideration and appropriate action by the Council.